

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Info.ACTION: ~~Amembassy, MOSCOW - 961~~

Oct 21 1962

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ELITE EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

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The following message from the President should be delivered to the Foreign Office for transmission to Khrushchev one hour before the delivery of the President's speech, now scheduled for Monday, October twenty-second at 7:00 p. m. Washington time.

QUOTE -- Sir:

There is attached a copy of the statement I am making tonight concerning developments in Cuba and the reaction of my Government thereto. A copy of this statement has already been handed to your Ambassador in Washington. In view of the gravity of the developments to which I refer, I want you to know immediately and accurately the position of my Government in this matter.

In our discussions and exchanges on Berlin and other international questions, the one thing that has most concerned me has been the possibility that your Government would not correctly understand the will and determination of the United States in any given situation, since I

DRAFTED BY:

TELEGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION AND

S/AL - L E Thompson:mac 10/21/62

CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

The Secretary

Cleared:

Cleared with the White House - Mr. Bundy.

S/S-Mr. Furnas

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since I have not assumed that you or any other sane man would, in this nuclear age, deliberately plunge the world into war which it is crystal clear no country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences to the whole world, including the aggressor.

At our meeting in Vienna and subsequently, I expressed our readiness and desire to find, through peaceful negotiation, a solution to any and all problems that divide us. At the same time, I made clear that in view of the objectives of the ideology to which you adhere, the United States could not tolerate any action on your part which in a major way disturbed the existing over-all balance of power in the world. I stated that an attempt to force abandonment of our responsibilities and commitments in Berlin would constitute such an action and that the United States would resist with all the power at its command.

It was in order to avoid any incorrect assessment on the part of your Government with respect to Cuba that I publicly stated that if certain developments in Cuba took place, the United States would do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies. Moreover, the Congress adopted a resolution expressing its support of this declared policy. Despite this, the rapid development of long-range missile bases and other offensive weapons systems in Cuba has proceeded. I must tell you that

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you that the United States is determined to remove this threat to the security of this hemisphere. At the same time, I wish to point out that the action we are taking is the minimum necessary to remove the threat to the security of the nations of this hemisphere. The fact of this minimum response should not be taken as a basis, however, for any misjudgement on your part.

I hope that your Government will refrain from any action which would widen or deepen this already grave crisis and that we can agree to resume the path of peaceful negotiation. UNQUOTE

You will be notified should there be any change in this schedule or text of President's statement. Text statement in septel. If text not received in time, deliver letter and advise Foreign Office it will follow.

All messages concerning this subject must ~~be~~ bear the caption "ELITE" immediately before any other pertinent caption.

END

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ANNOTATED COPY FOLLOWS

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Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

The Secretary

Cleared with the White House - - Mr. Bundy. ✓

S/S-Mr. Furnas

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Page 2 of telegram to Embassy, MOSCOW

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It was in order to avoid any incorrect assessment on the part of your Government with respect to Cuba that I publicly stated that if certain developments in Cuba took place, the United States would do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies. Moreover, the Congress adopted a resolution expressing its support of this decision.

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sent by:	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:	The Secretary
AT - L E Thompson - 10/21/62		
or access:	Cleared with the White House - E. Buckley. ✓	
S/S-Mr. Fornas	<i>CONFIDENTIAL</i> <i>TOP SECRET</i>	REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".
DS-322	NODS REVIEW	
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	<i>CC: A - Content removed</i> <i>Transferred to O/PADRC</i>	
NOV 1 1962	<i>CC: B - Transferred to O/FADRC</i> <i>with additional access</i>	

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